Measures for Welfare of Labourers in Unorganised Sector

587. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what are the steps being taken by Government to bring Farm labourers, village artisans and rural landless labourers, who are in the unorganised sectors into the fold of Labour Unions;

(b) whether Government are aware of the plight of the labourers and workers in unorganised sectors as fluctuation in cost of labour from time to time and place to place, is governed by the supply and demand rule; and

(c) if so, what are the remedial measures proposed to be taken by Government to rescue the labourers in unorganised sectors?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Rural and Farm Labour, by and large, are unorganised and they are not represented by trade unions, etc. However, during the course of last two decades, a number of organisations, both registered trade unions and voluntary organisations, have made efforts to organise rural work force in various States in the country. Some of these organisations of rural workers have been recognised by Government and participated in seminars, discussions and programmes organised by the Government.

(b) and (c) The Government is seized of the problems of the labourers and workers in the unorganised sector. It is a fact that rural and farm labour being unorganised, are subject to exploitation in the matter of wage payments, conditions of work and continuity of employment. There are legislations for providing minimum wages, abolition of bonded labour, regulation and abolition of contract labour, regulation of working conditions of inter-State migrant workers, equal remuneration to women workers, maternity benefit to women workers, etc. Increasing attention is being paid towards effective enforcement of these laws. Besides, various schemes under anti-poverty programmes, such as IRDP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojna are being implemented to ameliorate the lot of the poorest sections of the unorganised work-force.

Evaluation of Poverty Alleviation programmes

588. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any evaluation of poverty alleviation programmes like RLEGP, IRDP and NREP; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made by these programmes during the year 1989 and so far in 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): (a) Several evaluation studies of poverty alleviation programmes have been undertaken by Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and other research institution from time to time. The Department of Rural Development had also undertaken three rounds of Concurrent Evaluation of IRDP during the periods Oct. 85 to Sept. 86; January to December, 1987 and January to December, 1989 and Concurrent Evaluation of NREP during the period November, 1987 to October, 1988. The findings of such evaluation studies have been used, to improve and streamline the •implementation of the poverty alleviation programmes like RLEGP, IRDP and NREP.

(b) The RLEGP and NREP schemes were merged into a single new scheme *viz.* Jawahar Rozgar Yojna (JRY) during 1989-90. The progress made under JRY and IRDP during 1989-90 and 1990-91 is given in the enclosed statement.